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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hans Nusskern et al.
Serial No. : 09/743,738
Filed : January 16, 2001
For : MECHANICAL CONNECTING ELEMENT
Group Art Unit : 3629
Examiner : Ernesto Garcia

April 30, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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MAY 13 2002

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 111

Sir:

The following Amendment and Response is responsive to the Office Action dated January 31, 2002 for the above-identified patent application. A **one (1) month** shortened statutory response period was set for February 28, 2002. Enclosed herewith is a Petition for the Extension of Time and appropriate fee, extending the response period to April 30, 2002. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

In response to the Office Action of January 31, 2002, kindly amend the